



LATEST

IELTS

Academic Writing Task-2

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RANA BOOKS INDIA

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1. Do you agree that the advantages cars bring outweigh the disadvantages?

Someone has correctly said that “The car has **become an article of dress** without which we feel **uncertain, unclad, and incomplete**”. From my perspective, the advantages of the car **outstrip** its disadvantages.

On the one hand, the disadvantages of the car are only a few. The increase in pollution, traffic jams and accidents are the natural **sequel** to the **burgeoning population** of cars. Moreover, our overdependence on cars can lead to **a decrease in** practices such as walking and cycling and this has **resulted in** a number of diseases such as obesity.

On the other hand, I believe the advantages of a car are more significant. The most important advantage is that it has given people freedom of movement. **The ease of transportation** which a car brings is more than any other **means of transportation**. For instance, you can go **from destination to destination** and time is wasted waiting for the bus or train. Therefore, time and distance are not a barrier any more. What is more, families can go out together. This becomes especially helpful when there are elderly or the disabled and sick members in the family.

Furthermore, **the automobile industry** provides jobs for millions of workers. Filling stations, restaurants, and other businesses that serve automobile travelers **are of major importance** to a country's economy. In addition, many developing nations have begun making automobiles **to boost their economy**. That is why India has **promoted many automobile manufacturing industries** such as Tata and Mahindra.

On balance, the advantages to people's lives and the economic impact created by the car definitely outweigh the disadvantages. However, we must know when and how much to use the car so that we can **minimize the demerits** to some extent.

An article of dress (phrase) something really necessary

Uncertain, unclad, and incomplete (phrase) like we don't have enough and want to have something

Outstrip (v) eclipse/ outshine – be more than

Sequel (n) an event that happens after and is the result of an earlier event

Burgeoning (adj) develop quickly

Overdependence on something (phrase) relying too much on something

The ease of transportation (phrase) being able to move easily around

From destination to destination (phrase) go from one place to another

Automobile industry (phrase) car industry

Boost economy (phrase) improve economy

Minimize the demerits (phrase) reduce the bad things

2. Some people argue that the government should spend money on public services and facilities, but not on the arts. Do you agree or disagree?

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The role of arts in modern life is unique, providing people with entertainment and fielding various psychological rewards, such as relief from stress. Despite these benefits, the arts have been taken as luxury goods in many cases, it is suggested that public money of a city should be concentrated in projects like public facilities, which are more likely to bring immediate benefits to the public, rather than the arts. There are a number of facts indicating that this position is right.

Public facilities, widely accepted as one of the main precursors to a city's development, should be one of the highest priorities. Those underdeveloped cities in particular, should direct sufficient funding toward public facilities. While municipal office buildings, courthouses and post offices are essential components of public services, libraries, hospitals, parks, playing fields, gymnasiums and swimming pools are available to the public for social, educational, athletic and cultural activities. By boosting spending on public facilities, cities are more capable of satisfying the needs of citizens and improve their standard of living.

In addition to social benefits, there are economic merits that public facilities can offer to communities. An integrated transport network maritime, land and inland waterways transport and

civil aviation, for example, promises the smooth and speedy movement of goods and people in a city. Industrial products, as well as agricultural produce of a city, can be delivered to other cities in exchange for steady income. Of equal importance are public Internet facilities. Providing access to information by improving Internet and other telecommunications facilities has relevance to the ease with which businesses in a city receive, process, utilise, and send information, it is no exaggeration to say that entrepreneurs, either from home or abroad, will first examine the infrastructure of a city before deciding whether to pursue business opportunities there.

The arts, by comparison, although enabling people to see the world and the human condition differently and to see a truth one might ignore before, do not merit government spending. The first reason is that the arts — referring to music, film and literature altogether — are more likely to attract the investment of the private sector than public facilities. Businesspeople continue to invest in the arts in the expectation of earning lump sum income and the arts in return, continue to flourish without the government spending. Meanwhile, the arts are a key component of a culture and naturally passed down from one generation to another. Unlike public facilities, they require no money to survive.

It is therefore clear that construction of public facilities should be given the foremost consideration. The concern about the well-being of individual citizens and that of a city is more acute than the apprehension about the survival and prospects of the arts, something that businesses have a stake in.

3. Some people say that subjects like arts, music, drama and creative writing are more beneficial to children and therefore they need more of these subjects to be included in the timetable. Do you agree or disagree?

Arts have little or no place in the **educational curriculum** so far because we **have a feeling** that time spent on these things is time wasted. Recent studies, however, have shown that a good curriculum that includes arts education can **have multiple benefits** which I shall highlight in this essay.

The most important benefit of arts in schools is that it contributes to making a **well-rounded student**. Not only that, **certain forms of arts instruction enhance and complement academic skills** such as **basic reading skills, language development and writing skills**, so children do well in other subjects also.

Another big advantage is that it **encourages the pursuit of extra-curricular activities**. Children get a chance to show their **creative expression**. When such **hidden abilities are exposed** in school time then those with **exceptional talent** can be encouraged to **adopt it as a profession** later on in life. It is a well-known fact that people in such professions are **earning telephone figure salaries** nowadays.

Last but not least, such subjects **are stress-busters**. **In the highly competitive era of today**, pressure of academic subjects is too high. Arts like music, drama and creative writing **break the monotony of tough academic studies**.

In conclusion, I believe that our educational curriculum **needs a serious revision** and more of such subjects need to be added to the school curriculum. They complement academic study, **bring out hidden talent** and **break the ennui of tough academic studies**.

Educational curriculum (phrase) things we must learn at school

Well-rounded student (phrase) student who is good at many things

Encourage the pursuit of extra-curricular activities (phrase) make students want to join other activities outside the classroom

Creative expression (phrase) creativity capacity

Hidden abilities are exposed (phrase) their abilities are known

Exceptional talent (phrase) great ability

Adopt it as a profession (phrase) do it as their job

Earn telephone figure salaries (phrase) earn a lot of money

Stress-buster (phrase) make us feel less stressed

In the highly competitive era of today (phrase) in a competitive world

Break the monotony of tough academic studies (phrase) make us feel less bored with subjects at school like maths, physics, etc

Bring out hidden talent (phrase) let us know our talent inside us

Needs a serious revision (phrase) need to be changed

Break the ennui of tough academic studies (phrase) make someone less bored with studying at school

4. Many students have to study subjects which they do not like. Some people think this is a complete waste of time. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

In today's competitive world, a **broad knowledge** needed to **succeed in any field**. Therefore, I disagree that it is a waste of time if students study subjects which are **not of their interest**.

Let us first examine the reasons why some people **hold the opinion** that students should not have to study all the subjects and should be allowed to choose the subjects they want to study. **They opine** that in this case the students will probably be more **enthusiastic about** their study. In addition, if students are forced to study all subjects, they can easily **lose interest in** education. What is more, if all subjects are **compulsory for** studying, students will not have enough time to earn all of them properly; therefore, they will be constantly **under a lot of pressure**.

However, I believe all subjects are **of great importance** and for the **holistic development** of the students they need to study all subjects equally at school level. Later on, **upon admission to the colleges**, students can select the subjects of their choice and can **explore them further**. At that age they are mature enough to decide their subjects for themselves. At school level the student may not know what his real interests are.

Furthermore, nowadays, **the job market is very demanding** and the recruiters select students who are skilled in various fields. Having the basic knowledge of varied subjects during school time definitely **widens the horizons** for the students. To add to it, it is a well-known fact that most subjects are related to each other in some way or the other. For example, a basic knowledge of mathematics is needed **to excel in computer languages**. Finally, I believe that it is **up to** the teachers to **develop the interest** of the students in any subject. For instance, during my school

days, my history teacher was so good that a **monotonous and repetitive** subject like history was the favorite subject of the whole class.

In conclusion, I believe that students should learn all subjects at school level as they are not mature enough to know their real interests at school level and a broad knowledge is also needed for their holistic development.

Broad knowledge (phrase) a lot of knowledge

Be not of one's interest (phrase) Someone doesn't like something

Opine (v) think

Be enthusiastic about something (phrase) want to learn more about something

Lose interest in something (phrase) don't have to study any more

Under a lot of pressure (phrase) always feel stressed

To be of great importance (phrase) to be very importance

Holistic development (phrase) well round development

Upon admission to the colleges (phrase) when they enter university

Job market is very demanding: it means that it is very difficult to get a job

Widens the horizons (phrase) make someone know more about everything

Excel in something (phrase) to be good at something

Develop the interest (phrase) make student like something

Monotonous and repetitive (adj) boring

5. *Some people think that people moving to a new country should accept new culture in the foreign country. Others think that they should live as a separate minority group with different lifestyle. Discuss both views and give your opinion*

Today, with the passage of time each and every country is in the path of development, and with this development there is a growing trend of visiting different places in different countries. It is a

highly debated issue whether immigrants should do and behave as the people of the host country or should they stick to their traditional lifestyle and live as a separate minority. It is necessary to look into pros and cons of both situations before forming an opinion.

There are many benefits of adopting host countries' customs. Firstly, it decreases chances of misunderstanding and embarrassment. For e.g. in the UK it is offensive to ask about pay to anyone, which is common in India. Secondly, a nation's customs and traditions are fascinating and offer a deep insight into that country. People move to other countries to broaden their horizon. So, if immigrants copy the customs of host country, they learn more about them and that too in an interesting way. Finally, visitors establish a rapport with local people because people feel respected when their customs are understood and imitated. They become a member of the host country and so they don't suffer from any culture shock,

On the other hand, there are many advantages of making a minority group. If a person is from a country with strong and old traditions, it will be difficult for him to adapt to the new customs. He can't break the old customs such as food habits and wearing certain types of clothes. In such cases if he retains his old customs and lives with his own community as a separate minority, he won't suffer from homesickness.

On balance, I feel that someone who is moving to another country should respect the customs, culture, traditions etc, of that country. This is necessary because a newcomer is like a guest in someone else's home. So he is expected to follow the rules of that country. However, it should not be obligatory for him to follow those customs and change himself altogether. As time passes and he gets to know the hosts better then he can decide if he wants to adopt any custom or stick to his own. After all being a cosmopolitan is the need of the hour.

In conclusion, I believe that mutual understanding between both the visitor and the host is necessary to maintain harmony. A cosmopolitan society in which everyone is tolerant of each other's customs and traditions is the need of the day. After all, today, we are part of a small global village and not a big planet Earth.

6. Leisure is a growing industry, but people no longer entertain themselves as much as they used to because the use of modern technology has made them less creative. What is your opinion?

I disagree with the statement that people do not entertain themselves as much as they used to because of modern technology. I believe that modern technology has not made people less creative. In fact, it has changed the definition of leisure and the lifestyle of people.

Modern technology has **changed our definition of leisure**. **Earlier**, leisure meant going out and meeting people, playing outdoor games, going to cinema to watch movies and so on. However, today, leisure time is **full of choices**. We have so many things to do within the four walls of our house. We can watch countless programs on national and international channels; we can play online games; we can chat with friends and relatives **in any corner of the world**; we can **do arm-chair tourism** by which we can visit any historical place or museum sitting in our arm-chair. That is why perhaps it looks as if we people do not entertain ourselves as much as we used to **in yesteryear**.

Another reason why people don't entertain as much as before is also not because of technology. Technology has, in fact, given us more time to enjoy but we cannot **strike a balance between work and play**. We have **become workaholics**. Life in the past was simpler. People worked for basic needs. Now work is not just a way of life. It is for **personal fulfillment**. We **set goals for** ourselves such as a house or a car. We choose this way of life. Now we have **improved standard of living** but this has **come at a very high cost**.

Finally, I would like to state that the given statement is flawed because nowadays people specially take out time to entertain themselves. This can be evident from the **mushrooming growth** of leisure centers such as hotels, restaurants, fun parks and spas. Tourist places are full of people while train and air reservations have to be made well **in advance**.

In conclusion, I believe that, technology has not made us less creative. We entertain ourselves more than earlier times but the ways of entertainment are different and technology has given us more choices than before.

Change the definition of leisure (phrase) change the way we think of leisure

Earlier: in the past

In any corner of the world (phrase) everywhere in the world

Do arm-chair tourism (phrase) don't need to travel but sit at one place and still learn many things around

In yesteryear (phrase) in the past

Strike a balance between work and play (phrase) balance between work and play

Workaholic (n) someone who love working than anything else

Personal fulfillment (phrase) to get what we want in life

Improve standard of living (phrase) our life has become better

At very high cost (phrase) costly, expensively

Mushrooming growth (phrase) rapid increase in something

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7. Many employees may work at home with the modern technology. Some people claim that it can benefit only the workers, not the employers. Is it a positive or negative development?

Working from home **with the help of** telephone lines, or, in other words, **telecommuting** has become very popular especially where internet connections are **fast and reliable**, disagree with the given statement that it can benefit only the employees and not the employers. Telecommuting is a **win-win situation** for both employers and employees.

There are many advantages of telecommuting to employees. To begin with, it saves time as no time is wasted **commuting to and from the office**. It also saves money as no spending on **private or public transport** has to be allocated.

Furthermore, the workers can take care of their family commitments like dropping the child to school, etc. Although most of the work done by teleworkers is monitored, still a few minutes can **be snatched at times**. Finally, the tele-worker can do some side business side by side.

On the other hand, there are many advantages to employers. Firstly, less office space is needed as the workers are working from home. It is a fact that land prices are **exorbitant** and it is very expensive to build large offices. Not only building but maintaining offices is also very costly. Then, it has been seen that employees take less **sick leave** and other leaves. This is also beneficial for employers.

It would be worthwhile to consider why some people opine that telecommuting is not **beneficial** for employers. They argue that supervising tele-workers is difficult. Statistics have proved that **telecommuters take pains to work well** from home as they realise the benefits it has for them.

In conclusion, I believe that, telecommuting benefits both workers as well as employers.

8. *The detailed description about crime will affect the people and cause many social problems. Some people say that the media should be strictly controlled. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

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Nowadays, we are surrounded by a variety of media like the Internet, newspaper and TV, which are very informative and in doing so give a detailed description of crime. This causes many problems in society and therefore some people opine that there should be censorship placed on media. I feel that the media should be very judicious in selecting what to report and how much to report. So, I agree with the statement. In this essay, I intend to support my views with my arguments.

As I see it, the news outlets should pay more attention to the affairs themselves, rather than the details of the crimes. To start with, the details of crimes give a misleading picture to the children and adolescents who are curious about the process of committing crimes, and are likely to copy the criminal actions blindly. Moreover, the excessive violence and pornographic contents can also raise the adults' criminal tendencies. In other words, detailed crime news can generate individuals' potential desire to commit a crime, thus induce many social problems. So, there should be some control imposed on the media.

Moreover, the detailed report of a crime does not show enough respects to the victims and their family. For example, if any murder or robbery has taken place in someone's house then if it is shown in detail on TV, the whole privacy of those people is lost. Another very strong argument in favour of censorship of media is that sometimes this detailed description can help the criminals also. For instance, when terrorists attacked Hotel Taj in Mumbai, the media reported details of the commandos' position on TV. This was also viewed by the terrorists hiding in the hotel. They changed their positions accordingly. Had there been some regulating authority, the terrorists could have been caught much earlier.

However, the opponents claim that we have a right to know every detail and so media should report every detail. I still feel that it would lead to more problems. I think the media has an obligation to show the right direction to the public. It should report news in an objective manner rather than high-lighting the details of the crime.

In conclusion, I believe that, although it is the duty of the media to keep us informed, the details of crime should not be shown and for that censorship of the media is a must.

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9. In companies, promotions to high positions should be given to employees inside the company and not to somebody outside the company or new hiring. What is your opinion on this?

It is a **highly debatable issue** whether promotions should be given to employees **from within** or new hiring should be done. The given statement proposes to **in-house hiring**. It is necessary to look at the **pros and cons** of promoting from within the company before forming an opinion.

There are many benefits to hiring from within. To begin with, the employee is familiar with the company. No **special training** needs to be given. The person knows about the **general workings of the business**. Moreover, employees feel that they will be **rewarded for their extra effort and hard work**. So, an employee who has been tested and **excelled at a lower level** can be **shifted to an upper level**.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages of hiring from within. Sometimes, **the established policy** of hiring from within makes some employees feel that they **are entitled to promotion** just because they have spent time with the company. Secondly, this can hurt the feelings of other employees who are not promoted. They may feel that they deserve the position better.

In my opinion, a manager or business owner needs to remember that all the **hiring decisions** need to be made with the idea of **strengthening the business**. This means that sometimes a person from within can be **moved up** and sometimes a highly qualified person can be hired from outside.

In conclusion, I believe that, each promotion needs to be done **on a case-to -case basis** and at all times the HR manager needs to do what is **in the best interest of the company**.

From within (phrase) inside the company

In-house hiring (phrase) hire somebody inside the company

Special training (phrase) teach them how to do it in the beginning

General workings of the business (phrase) how the business is done

Rewarded for their extra effort and hard work (phrase) get some benefits if they try harder and harder

Shifted to an upper level (phrase) move to a higher position

The established policy (phrase) the policy made by the company

Be entitled to promotion (phrase) have the chance to get to higher positions

Strengthen the business (phrase) make the business better

Be moved up (phrase) moved to a higher position

On a case to case basis (phrase) depend on a person's situation

In the best interest of the company (phrase) the best thing for the company

9. Some people think that animals should be kept in men made cells. What are the disadvantages of keeping animal in zoos?

I disagree that animals should be kept in manmade cells. I feel that zoos are an unsuitable environment for animals and therefore should be abolished.

Firstly, zoo animals are kept in very **confined areas** compared with their **vast natural habitat**. Due to this, zoo animals **develop unnatural habits** like pacing back and forth or swaying from side to side. For example, polar bears are given about 10 meters of walking space where as in their arctic home they roam for hundreds of kilometers. Similarly, lions and tigers are confined in cages where they **lack exercise and stimulation**. What is more, it is very common for visitors **to tease and provoke caged animals**. This also leads to **unnatural behavior in animals**.

Secondly, the **breeding programs taken up by** zoos are not very successful. For instance, the 'Panda Breeding Program' has been very costly and unsuccessful. Also, zoo life does not **prepare animals for the challenges of life** in the wild. They are provided good food in the zoos, but if left in the jungle, they **may die of starvation** because they cannot hunt for themselves.

Finally, the zoo is an unnatural environment that **exposes animals to many dangers**. Diseases often spread between species that would never live together naturally. For example, many Asian elephants have died in African zoos after catching herpes from African elephants.

In conclusion, I believe that, zoos are unnatural habitat for the wild animals and **there is no justification** in caging these **marvelous creatures of God**.

Confined area (phrase) narrow places

Develop unnatural habits (phrase) do something unnaturally

Lack exercise and stimulation (phrase) don't have enough exercise and feel bored

Unnatural behavior in animals (phrase) animals become strange in the way they behave

Prepare animals for the challenges of life (phrase) make them ready to deal with difficulties

Die of starvation (phrase) Die because they have food to eat

Expose animals to many dangers (phrase) make animals face a lot of dangers

There is no justification: There is no reason why we should do something

Marvelous creatures of God (phrase) wonderful animals

10. It is more important for a building to serve a purpose than to look beautiful. Architects shouldn't worry about producing building as a work of art. Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that buildings should be more utilitarian than beautiful. However, I disagree that architects should not make efforts about making artistic buildings. I believe that today's architects have the expertise and the resources to design buildings which are both - beautiful and useful.

A good building should satisfy the three principles of durability, utility and beauty. It should stand up robustly and remain in good condition. It should be useful and function well for the people using it. It should delight people and raise their spirits. A good architect should strive to fulfill each of these three attributes as well as possible.

To begin with, the burgeoning population and, the scarcity of land today have raised the debate whether the buildings of today should only be useful and not beautiful. However, the skyscrapers of today are the answers to both these problems. They accommodate a lot of people in the least amount of space and these skyscrapers are architectural marvels in terms of beauty.

Secondly, the natural resources are limited and it is the need of the hour to make energy efficient buildings. For example, using solar panels and other energy saving measures are the need of the day. Today's architects have been successful in designing aesthetically appealing solar panels which need less space. The climate change that is taking place because of global warming need buildings that need less air conditioning and yet remain cool.

In conclusion, I believe that, it is commendable for architects to understand function, and aesthetics both. It is a big responsibility to have buildings which are both useful and beautiful and architects of today have the capability to do so.

11. Some people believe they should keep all the money they have earned and should not pay tax to the state. What is the purpose of taxes? Why do some people refuse to pay taxes and explain the effects on society?

I disagree with the statement that individuals should not pay taxes to the state. The government runs the country from the taxes it collects. Taxes are collected only from those who earn above a certain minimum limit. It is our moral duty to pay taxes.

Tax money collected by government is used to fund basic amenities, provide various services to citizens and for government administration and projects running of jails and defense system and many other operations. It is not wrong to say that "taxes run a country." Thus, it is very important for a government to make people pay taxes.

Let us analyze why people do not want to pay taxes. The main reason is their dissatisfaction with government in serving them. They blame government for things like a lack of infrastructure, poverty and unemployment, but they are not completely wrong as tax revenue is misused in some or the other way in every country. In developed countries, however, because of higher satisfaction from government's functioning, citizens may be more willing to pay taxes. Another factor generating dissatisfactions the tax structure itself. Often the tax system is complex and it drives people away from paying taxes, it is also felt that the tax rates are high and tax slabs are unequal. So they feel it is not unethical if one goes for tax avoidance or tax evasion

Not paying taxes can drastically affect a country's revenue generation, my own country, India, for that matter. But then, it is desired that government come up with a fair tax structure and also make people aware where the taxes are being diverted. Even lowering the tax rates can help a country increase its tax collection as it would increase compliance among the taxpayers. Tax reform should also be fast so that no public grievance or non-compliance remains for long A proper tax system backed up with strict tax laws can produce the best results.

In conclusion, I believe that, it is the duty of every citizen to pay tax and the duty of every government to use it appropriately in public interest

12. Some people claim that public museums and art galleries will not be needed because people can see historical objects and works of art by using a computer. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

It is irrefutable that nowadays, because of technology, arm-chair tourism through which we can see historical objects and works of art on a computer, has gained popularity. However, I disagree, that public museums and art galleries will no longer be needed. In fact, I believe that their popularity will grow even further.

First of all, computers can never replace real public museums and art galleries. No matter how real and vivid computer images are, they are only images and can never be likened to the historical objects and works of art that we see in real or even might be allowed to touch with our fingertips. The difference can be compared to seeing the picture of a mango rather than actually eating it.

Secondly, visiting real museums and art galleries is a rewarding experience many respects. For one thing, it is a good exercise. While we are Snaking the trip to a museum or art gallery and then strolling about on the site, we get some exercise which does a lot of good to our health. We generally go with family and friends and enjoy a lot. We also learn about the culture and tradition of the place. All this broadens our horizons which can never be done by the passive activity of seeing something on the computer screen.

Finally, I believe that after seeing these objects and museums, our craving to actually see these increases even more and so we make efforts to go and see these places. This can be proved by the overwhelming number of tourists to these places that has been increasing ear after year. At certain times, especially when it is temporarily impossible for us to visit museums and art galleries in person, we can get a rough picture of what are on display on site. However, what we see from a computer screen is, after all, not exactly the same as what we see and feel with our own eyes on site.

In conclusion, arm-chair tourism is there today but museums and art galleries will still be needed.

13. An American film actor once said, “Tomorrow is important and precious. Some people think individuals and society should pay more attention to the future than to the present. Do you agree or disagree?”

I certainly support the view. One should most definitely keep the future in mind and not fritter away everything to enjoy the present. One should always remember that the present would one day transform into the future, and when it eventually does, it should be safe and secure. The same holds true for societies. Let us consider why it is so important to be prepared for the coming time.

The mortality rate has come down and the span of life is generally longer, but the period of earning is comparatively limited. Nobody knows how long he would live, but the age of retirement is generally fixed. One cannot work indefinitely. Therefore, during his earning span, he has to make sure that he puts aside enough money that will hold him in good stead in his later years, when he will be able to work no more. Further, the requirements in old age sometimes exceed a person's needs during the period of his youth.

Deteriorating health translates into higher medical bills and hospital charges being weak and infirm, one needs to spend more on commuting. He will need to hire assistants to help in the house. Next come the needs of the family. One has to provide for the education and marriage expenses of the dependent members of the family, like children and even grandchildren. One has to pay one's insurance premiums, and even for the day-to-day needs of the younger members of the family, till such time as they are employed and earning. Moreover, one may incur extra expenditure on leisure activities. People generally travel more after retirement to meet their relatives and friends who may be settled and staying far away from them. There would also be the visual expenses on house maintenance and repair, and the payment of personal and property taxes. The societies should also think about tomorrow. Neighborhood should be planned nicely. Everyone should participate in community projects. Good educational institutes and health centres should be there in all areas. If only today is looked into and no planning is done for tomorrow then crime and violence would increase in society and everyone would suffer.

Therefore, it is imperative that people and societies plan wisely for the future. If one has saved enough, one can sit back and enjoy peace and comfort in one's later years and even witness the

smile of joy on the faces of one's children. If he has saved not, then the journey ahead would be dreary and dismal indeed.

14. Teachers used to convey information, but now with wide resources of information. Some people think that there is no role for teachers to play in modern education, others disagree. Discuss both views and give your opinion?

I disagree with the view that teachers have lost their importance in education because of the abundant resources such as the internet. I firmly believe that teachers are as important as before and even more so. Both sides of the argument will be explained.

It is irrefutable the computer and internet have made possible distance education and on-line education, in this regard computers are a boon for the handicapped, those living in remote areas and those in job. They can study any time of the day or night with the internet access. This has made education approachable for many who cannot for some reason or the other attend a college or university.

However, I still feel that teachers can never lose their importance. In learning and practice of more complex ideas, the computer is not adequate. It can tell if the answer is right or wrong but it cannot tell where the student went wrong. Tasks involving reasoning cannot be taught using computers. Moreover, teachers add their own knowledge gained through experience that of books and other resources.

Furthermore, teachers can stimulate students' interest and it is an undeniable fact that stimulated people tend to learn more. They can keep students focused on study. A student studying by himself may get bored and stop studying. Teachers can provide a faster and simpler way to present information to the students. They can come down to the level of a student and so are definitely better than computers. What is more, teachers are role models for students. They are scholars in action. They not only teach academic subjects, but also many social skills.

In conclusion, I believe that, there is no doubt that modern resources have changed education from a teacher-oriented one to a student-centred one, but teachers will always hold their importance and can never be replaced by any technology.

15. Sending criminals to prison is not the best method of dealing with them. Education and job training are better ways to help them. Do you agree or disagree?

Opinions are divided as to the best way to **reduce crime**. The traditional solution is to **punish the criminals by putting them in prison**. Some **hold the view that** education and job training are the **long term solutions** to **cut crime**. In my opinion, prison is the only answer in a few situations, but in most cases education, **vocational training** and **rehabilitation** are better.

Prison is the only answer in case of criminals who are **a dire threat to** the society, such as murderers. They cannot be made to mix with society. Some people also say that people would not be afraid of **committing crime** if **fear of imprisonment** is not there. But I still feel that in the majority of cases can do without prisons.

In traditional prisons, people learn a lot about crime and so when they leave prison they will commit even more crime. In other words, prisons act as universities of crime. So **petty offenders** like **shop-lifters and pick-pockets** should be given some vocational training and education. It is a well-known fact that the basic causes of crime are poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. So, if we provide education and job training then we would be **removing the causes of crime**. If **criminals are rehabilitated** by some forms of employment, then they would certainly not reoffend.

Furthermore, the prisons are expensive to maintain. The government can spend that money on other important matters such as education and healthcare. This would **ease some burden from the government's shoulders**. The **petty and minor criminals** can also be employed in some **community service** projects after providing education and vocational training.

In conclusion, I believe that, we should hate the crime and not the criminal. To fight crime, we should **focus on the causes of crime**. Education and job training help to **rehabilitate the**

criminals. So, people who commit less serious crimes should not be **sent to prison.** Focus should be on **reforming them.**

Opinions are divided as to something: People have different views about something

Vocational training (phrase) teach criminals a job

A dire threat to someone (phrase) be dangerous to someone

Remove the causes of something (phrase) stop something from happening

Reoffend (verb) commit the crime again

Petty and minor criminals (phrase) those who commit small crimes

Ease some burden from the government's shoulders (phrase) make somebody less stressed and worried

Community service (phrase) work that someone does as a punishment, instead of going to prison

Rehabilitate (v) to help someone who has been ill or in prison to return to a healthy, independent, and useful life

Reform (v) change

16. Rich countries should not employ skilled labor from poor countries, as poor countries need the workers more. Do you agree or disagree?

Rich countries depend heavily on cheap imported labor to increase their profit margin. This demand for outsourcing increased further during recession faced by USA. Although poor countries may need their skilled workers to help them develop as a nation, it is felt that overall greater benefit is reaped when their skilled workers are employed by rich countries. This essay shall analyze how the employment of cheap foreign labor helps the developing countries also by giving them chances for skill development and economic growth.

Firstly, when developed countries outsource work, requiring skilled labor to developing countries, a demand is created in those poor countries which leads to higher education in those poorer nations. For example, in the late twentieth century, India saw a huge influx of software development work from the United States and this corresponded positively to an equal growth in the Indian tech-related education sector. This example shows that if developing countries make their skilled labor available for hire to the world, they also develop their internal infrastructure such as good educational institutes. Thus, developing countries also benefit when an openness to foreign employment is embraced.

In addition to this, the economies of developing countries are given new avenues in which to grow when a working partnership with developed countries is established. Again, take the relationship between the United States and India as an example. Currently, English-speaking receptionists in India handle telephone support for many different American products. These employment options encourage more and more Indians to study English, which in turn creates all sorts of new opportunities for business relationships between the two countries. Thus, the idea that poor countries should close their doors to foreign interest in their skilled labor is not supported.

It has also been seen that workers from poor countries earn more from rich countries than they would from employment within their country. Most of them invest that money in their own country and this improves the overall economy of the poor countries.

In conclusion, I believe that, poorer countries are in most cases better by making their skilled labor available to developed countries. This trend is in no way detrimental to their own development.

17. Individuals should not be allowed to carry guns. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

There are some who hold the opinion that gun ownership should be restricted, as it is in many countries, and that people in general should not be permitted to keep them. There are a number of reasons to agree with this point of view, as will now be discussed.

A major reason why governments should not allow people to have guns is because of the potential for accidents. In America, for example, you can legally shoot people if you find them robbing your house, but this can lead to people dying over issues of mistaken identity. In addition, there are crimes where people act rashly or in anger, so guns that were intended for defence are often used aggressively.

There is also the intentional damage caused by guns. It is statistically evident that the number of gun-related crimes is higher in countries where firearm ownership is legal. Countries like America, for example, suffer from a disproportionately high number of fatal shootings in comparison with most other countries.

Some people, however, argue that shooting is a sport, thus being prevented from owning their own firearm is both unjust and violation of our rights. Yet this must be balanced with the overwhelming number of people who use guns for criminal purposes.

To sum up, it is clear that the proliferation of guns leads to injury and death both intentionally and unintentional. Although there are points to support gun ownership, they are weak in comparison with the rising tide of gun crime, situation which will only continue to worsen.

18. The subjects and lesson contents are decided by the authorities such as the government.

Some people argue that teachers should make the choice. Agree or disagree?

In almost all parts of the world, there is a National curriculum decided by the government which is followed in all schools. Some people however feel that it restricts the teachers freedom to respond to the students' needs and so teachers should decide the school curricula. I believe that the national curriculum is good enough and has withstood the test of time but some portion of the curriculum should be left in the hands of the teachers.

Having a national curriculum merely standardises what is taught across the country, giving equal opportunity to all. If we Abolish the national curriculum, anything could be taught and students would have even less equal opportunities. This would also worsen the gap between the government

and private schools, it may also imply that religious schools could teach only religion and ignore science and therefore many students would not receive a well-rounded education.

On the other hand, it is also true that the national curriculum does not allow for enough local variation. It is important for children to learn the values of things such as local history, accents and dialects. We are not all the same and school should reflect on that. The present problem is that the curriculum is too comprehensive. It tries to squeeze all children into the same mold.

What is actually needed is a more flexible policy to allow for individual aptitudes and interests. However, there should still be a limited core curriculum which should be decided by the government. Then the teachers should be given some freedom to offer any other subjects which the pupils and their parents want. Young people of all ages would be much more likely to thoroughly enjoy school, learn effectively, develop their individual talents, and gain a love of learning which will illuminate their whole lives. Teachers would “walk tall” in our society and establish their proper roles guardians of the future

In conclusion, I believe that, a national curriculum should be there but there should also be room for teachers to have their say wherever needed.

19. Money for postgraduate research is limited. Some people think that financial support from governments should be provided for scientific research. Do you agree or disagree?

There is no doubt that postgraduate research can provide a lot of wealth to country. However, it is a matter of debate whether all these researches should be funded by governments. I agree with the statement that government should fund only scientific research and the less useful research should be sponsored by some private agencies.

There is a strong argument why only scientific researches should be done by the government. Government has so many other responsibilities on its shoulders. It has to provide infrastructure such as transportation, hospitals and education institutes to the citizens. Then it has to support the defence services and even maintain law and order in the country.

It is, however, important to identify areas where only the government should carry out and control scientific research. Firstly, researches into nuclear technology and national defence are very crucial. They cannot be left into the hands of private companies. Secondly, some researches are

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